DECLASSIFIED

(R)

F760002-0351

Department of State

TELEGRAM

(419)

PET 15-2 LIBYA

14

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL 083

PAGE 01 BENGHA 00025 200740Z

17
ACTION E-11

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 3/1/76
PER MBerry OFFICE NEA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-A-88

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-20 INT-06 COM-08 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-06 H-02 INR-06 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 P-03 RSC-01
PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 OEP-01 TRSE-00 INRE-00 RSR-01
/114 W

047728
DEPARTMENT OF STATE /CDC/IR
REVIEWED BY [illegible] DATE 3/4/82
EDS or XDS EXT. DATE 11/20/72
TS AUTH. [illegible]
ENDORSE EXISTING EXEMPTIONS
DECLASSIFY/RELEASABLE
RELEASE DENIED
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

BENGHAZI 25

P R 200715Z JAN 72
FM AMEMBASSY BENGHAZI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0730
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL BENGHAZI 0025

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF BP

PET

REF: BENGHAZI 0017

FROM MACK

1. AT ORDER OF ARAB GULF, NELSON BUNKER HUNT HAS WITHDRAWN ITS PERSONNEL FROM SARIR FIELD (TOTAL OF 20) AND FROM TOBRUK TERMINAL (TOTAL OF 15!. 22 BRITISH NATIONALS RECRUITED BY OVERSEAS TECHNICAL SERVICES (OTS) FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH ARAB GULF HAVE TAKEN THEIR PLACE.

2. HUNT PERSONNEL WE HAVE TALKED WITH SEEM STUNNED BY THIS SUDDEN TURN. THEY FEEL CERTAIN THAT OTS PERSONNEL, UNLESS GREATLY AUGMENTED, CANNOT KEEP FIELD PRODUCING FOR MORE THAN 10 DAYS. HUNT PERSONNEL ARE NOW IN BENGHAZI AWAITING WORD TO EITHER RETURN TO THEIR JOBYD HERE OR RETURN TO DALLAS.

3. HUNT'S LIBYA REP, AL REED, HAS FLOWN TO TRIPOLI TO GET EXPLANATION OF ARAB GULF INTENTIONS. HUNT PERSONNEL HERE GUESS THAT ARAB GULF IS TRYING TO MAKE NATIONALIZATION MEANINGFUL BY TAKING MANAGEMENT CONTROL

(1)

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IT ALSO LIKELY THAT THIS MOVE IS BARGAINING PLOY TO FORCE HUNT ACCEPT PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT MORE TO LIKING OF ARAB GULF. SUCH STRATEGY WOULD BACKFIRE IF OTS PERSONNEL FAIL TO KEEP OIL MOVING.
PALMER

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